

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 15-19 are presently pending in this application, Claims 12-14 and 20-22 having been canceled, and Claims 1 and 15 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to because of informalities; Claims 12-14 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 02/42706 A1 (hereinafter "WO '706"). However, Claims 1-11 and 15-19 were indicated as allowed.

First, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-11 and 15-19 were allowed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that Claims 12-14 and 20-22 be canceled without prejudice. In addition, Claims 1 and 15 have been amended solely for clarification. These amendments in Claims 1 and 15 are believed to be merely cosmetic and are not believed to narrow their original scopes in any ways.

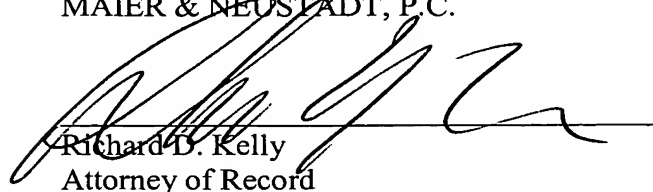
In response to the objection to the drawings, submitted herewith is a separate LETTER SUBMITTING REPLACEMENT DRAWING SHEET(S), submitting for approval changes to Figure 7. Specifically, Figure 7 has been amended to correct the noted typographical errors as required by the Examiner.

If, however, the Examiner disagrees with any of the amendments presented above, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive a mutually satisfactory solution and expedite the prosecution of the present application.

In light of the prior indication of allowable claims and in view of the amendments presented above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 7. This sheet, which includes Figs. 7 and 8, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 7 and 8.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)